

Appl. No. 10/801,978  
Response dated May 3, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1-67. (canceled)

68. (previously presented) A lift boat comprising:

a) a hull having a deck surface, port and starboard sides, bow and stern portions, a hull periphery, a hull centerline and a hull bottom, each said port and starboard side extending generally between the deck and bottom, the bow portion having a rake portion;

b) a plurality of legs movably attached to the hull;

c) each leg having a jacking mechanism for moving the leg upward and downward relative to the hull; and

d) a plurality of pads, one pad attached to each leg, including a pair of forward leg pads and an aft leg pad next to the vessel stern portion and closer to the hull centerline than the forward leg pads;

e) a plurality of recesses in the hull for receiving the pads when the lift boat is underway, wherein the lift boat has a deck surface area which is the surface area of the top of the hull as viewed in plan, at least two of the pads extending laterally of the deck surface area;

f) wherein two of the recesses include an opening in one of the sides through which a pad extends beyond the hull periphery during use when the boat is underway and the legs are in the up position; and

g) a propulsion system for self-propelling the hull, including a pair of propulsion units positioned on opposite sides of the aft leg pad.

69. (canceled)

70. (original) The lift boat of claim 68, wherein the pads are partially recessed into the hull and extend laterally outward from the hull when the boat is underway.

71-85. (canceled)